

## Before a Flood

Last Updated Wednesday, 19 July 2006

### Before a Flood

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### During a Flood

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### After a Flood

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### Benefits of Floods

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### Flood Information Links

Before a flood, there are many things you can do to prepare your family and home. Floods can happen with little or no warning. The more you do in advance, the quicker you can escape harm and reduce property damage.

### Prepare Your Family

### Prepare Your Home

### Boulder County Flood Protection Handbook (pdf)

### Prepare an emergency kit

Keep an emergency kit in an easy access location. Include things like:

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A battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Be sure to check your batteries regularly.

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Flashlights

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Rubber boots and gloves

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First aid supplies and any medicines needed by family members

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Water stored in tightly sealed containers

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Food that requires little cooking and no refrigeration

#### Plan for evacuation

- Identify the nearest safe area and the quickest route there.

- Make a family plan in case family members are not in the house during a flood. Where will you meet? How will you contact each other? Where will you go?

- Know what the city's emergency sirens sound like and where to go for information when you hear one.

#### Educate Children

Things to tell your children to prepare them for a flood:

- Don't play in ditches or ravines.

- Don't walk, swim or play in floodwaters.

- If you come to flood waters, turn around and go the other way.

- Stay away from flooded creek banks. The soggy bank can collapse at any time.
- Watch out for snakes and rodents flushed out of their homes by a flood.
- Make sure children know where to go if a flood happens when they are at school or otherwise away from home.
- Explore the Federal Emergency Management Agency's site for kids with your children.

#### Be aware of your surroundings

Unfortunately, no one knows exactly when it will flood. The city monitors information from the National Weather Service and the Hensley Meteorological Service for conditions that indicate that flooding could occur. What you can do is:

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Be alert during severe thunderstorms, especially during the spring run-off. Flash flooding can occur within minutes.

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Monitor the city of Boulder emergency line at 303-441-4300 for flood updates.

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If you hear an outdoor warning siren, tune to KBOL 1490 AM, KOA 850 AM, or local cable Channel 8 for more information. Be ready to evacuate low-lying areas.

#### Know where to get information

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Visit the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and download the Family Preparedness Guide (pdf) for more information on floods and other hazards.

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Call the city emergency information line at 303-441-4300.

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Check out flood insurance information available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the National Flood Insurance Program.

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Tap into the National Weather Service online.

## Prepare Your Home

### Get flood insurance

A house in the 100-year floodplain has a 26 percent chance of being flooded over a 30-year mortgage. That's more than five times the chance that the house will catch fire in the same period! Most standard homeowner's policies do not cover floods. Does yours?

The city of Boulder is taking action to reduce flood insurance premiums. As of 1997, city of Boulder residents may receive up to a 10 percent premium discount on flood insurance.

More information on buying flood insurance, costs and coverage is available through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Visit the FEMA home preparation site for tips on how to reduce loss in a flood, including:

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Find out if your house is located on a floodplain, making it vulnerable to flooding. Call 303-441-1880 or use our online floodplain map.

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Store valuables and important documents on an upper floor in watertight containers.

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Install backflow valves.

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[Download the Boulder County Flood Protection Handbook \(pdf\)](#)

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